

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 27 has been amended as supported by the priority document of this case and by the specification and claims as originally filed. See for example [0080] of the priority document and paragraphs [0131] and [0134] and Figure 3 of the publication of the US application. Figure 3 of the priority document and Figure 3 of the present case are the same.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-10 and 12-27 will now be active in this application. Claim 19 stands withdrawn from consideration.

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Rodee for the helpful discussion with Applicants' Representative on March 27, 2007. Amendments for Claim 27 were discussed.

According to the Advisory Action, the rejection of Claim 12 was overcome by the response filed February 27, 2007.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The rejection of Claim 27 over Toda et al is obviated by the amendment of this claim to be consistent with the priority document, paragraph [0080]. Claim 27 has been amended by including "an exposure means" and "a charge eliminating means", as supported by the Japanese priority document of this case and by the US specification, claims and figures as originally filed. See for example [0080] of the priority document and paragraphs [0131] and [0134] and Figure 3 of the publication of the US application. Figure 3 of the priority document and Figure 3 of the present case are the same.

In addition, the use of "an exposure means" and "a charge eliminating means" in a process cartridge is within the knowledge of those skilled in the art.

Thus, Toda et al is not available as prior art against the present invention. Applicants previously submitted a Certified English Translation of the Japanese priority document JP2003-079206, thereby perfecting their claim to priority.

Further, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the provisional double patenting rejection if it is the only issue remaining in this case and convert the provisional rejection in the other application to a double patenting rejection. MPEP 822.01.

In addition, Applicants note that MPEP §821.04 states, "if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable

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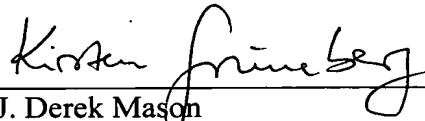
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product claim will be rejoined." Applicants respectfully submit that should the elected group be found allowable, the non-elected Claim 19 should be rejoined.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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